

A PRAYER AND BLESSING FOR PETS AND OTHER CREATURES.

St Francis Day on 4 October every year is a reminder of a holy man, who lived 800 years ago and remains an inspiration, model and guide to living a simple life of love, joy and peace in harmony with all of God's creation.

With St Francis we praise God and thank him for the special pets that have been part of our lives. They are part of God's great creation and are loved by him. They have been given to us to love and care for and they too give us their love and protection. Pets are a special blessing in families to everyone, the young and the old as they share our lives. As companions in loneliness and friends, day by day, they teach us the ways of love and life.



Take a moment to reflect and if possible share with another person the memories of the pets that have enriched your life (maybe share their pictures.) Reflect too on the many pets and other animals that are abandoned and abused for lack of love, and all the creatures affected by our human actions and the ravages of fire, water and drought.

WATER A NECESSITY OF LIFE. In the Season of Creation 2026 the theme of LIVING WATER inspired us to consider how important water is to all God's creatures. Many are drowned when there are floods. Other creatures have died of thirst and hunger in drought-stricken areas or when they are abandoned. When we consider our water needs let us not forget the needs of animals too.

LET US PRAY:

PRAYER FROM Laudato Si, Pope Francis

"Blessed are you, all powerful Creator God. You are present in the whole universe and in the largest and smallest of your creatures. You embrace with tenderness all that exists. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters."

PRAYER FOR OUR PETS. Creator God, we praise and thank you for all your creatures and ask you to bless our beloved pets in a special way, especially

Fill us with your Spirit and make us grateful for their love. As Jesus taught increase our concern for all the animals in creation.

St Francis, our model and inspiration, pray for us. May we and all followers and friends of St Francis, pray and act for peace and harmony in our world and all the families of creation. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION during the Jubilee Year of St Francis.

St Francis, our brother, you who 800 years ago, went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us with the Lord. You who recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation, that breaks down all walls. You, who unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world erects borders, in this age marked by conflict and division. Intercede for us that we may become artisans of peace; unarmed and disarming witnesses to the peace that comes from Christ. Amen

MARFAM 2026 SEASON OF CREATION